

# PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

A NEWSLETTER OF THE PUBLIC  
HEALTH MUSEUM



## Public Health Week at the Museum

The Public Health Museum celebrated Public Health Week 2016 with a flurry of activities, expanded museum hours and free museum admission. Activities included museum tours, historical lectures and a live performance. Strongwater Farm Therapeutic Equestrian Center also joined the celebration with an open house highlighting their therapeutic riding program. On Friday night the Museum joined forces with the Tewksbury Historical Society in presenting two informative lectures, *George Washington's Relationship to Tewksbury* and *Health Problems During the Revolutionary War*. Expanded Saturday museum hours were complemented by a [live performance](#) by Ms. Collette Cullen as Annie Sullivan, a one-time Tewksbury Hospital resident and Helen Keller's teacher. The performance of [Annie Sullivan Speaks](#) provided an overview of Annie's life, her time in Tewksbury and her ultimate life's work as Helen Keller's teacher. The performance concluded with a moving [video](#) of Annie and Helen and the tremendous results of their lifetimes of work. See page 2 for more photos of the Museum's Public Health Week activities.



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Walking tours of the Tewksbury Hospital campus have resumed. **Reserve** your spot today and enjoy history and nature in an informative tour of the beautiful Tewksbury Hospital campus.

# Public Health Week Activities cont.



During PH Week, visitors toured the Museum, seen here with guide Mary Ferguson (on right).

David E. Markus, President of the Tewksbury Historical Society presented on *George Washington's Relationship to Tewksbury* during PH Week.



Dr. Alfred DeMaria, Jr., representing the PH Museum Board, presented a plaque in memorial of long-time museum friend, volunteer and supporter, Duncan Hazel.



PH Week activities included an open house at Strongwater Farm Therapeutic Equestrian Center with tours of their facilities and an overview of the programs offered.

## The Museum Announces *Outbreak 2016!*

Outbreak 2016 is a week-long workshop for high school sophomores and juniors introducing them to career options in public health. All faculty are currently working in areas of public health such as infectious disease epidemiology, laboratory sciences, public health nursing, dentistry, veterinary sciences, occupational health and health education. The workshop combines didactic lessons with hands on activities to expose participants to the many faces of public health. Participants will

1. Investigate a mock foodborne outbreak
2. Discuss and debate ethical issues in public health
3. Set up and run an emergency dispensing site for a zombie apocalypse
4. Attend field trips to the State Laboratory and a community health center.
5. Make friends and perhaps discover a future career path



“The Outbreak program made my junior year summer the best summer yet.”  
*Ryan Purdy (2015 participant)*

“As a volunteer I really enjoyed helping to ensure that the participants had just as great of a time as I did and learning information that I may have missed when I was a participant.”  
*Emily Dowd (2014 participant, 2015 volunteer)*

See the [PH Museum Web Site](#) for more details.

# Now and Then: Public Health Nursing

## Dorothy Hall: A Career in PH Nursing

*(Dorothy Hall has spent her career as a public health nurse and is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Public Health Museum. Her story provides a unique insight in to public health nursing over time.)*

My life in the field of public health started many years ago and as I look back over these years, it has been a marvelous career to reflect upon for myself as well as family and friends.

It all started in western Massachusetts where I was born into a family with 5 children. We lived in a town of about 400 people, if that many. For the first four years of my education I went to school in a one-room school house with one teacher for eight grades, if there was any one in them. My next four years were spent in a two-room building with four grades sharing one teacher. Then I was off to at Orange High School, which was a big step for me as I had the opportunity to make friends with many more children age. Following graduation as an honors student, I went to a 3-year nursing program at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH).



While I was a student nurse, I was also a member of the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps, a program signed into law by President F. D. Roosevelt with the purpose of relieving registered nurses to serve in the military. This program was later disbanded by President Truman in 1948.

For my first 2 years as a RN, I spent my time at home caring for my mother who was terminally ill with cancer. I then went to Washington, DC to join some of my former MGH classmates to work. While there, I enrolled at George Washington University. My studies sparked an interest in advancing my education so after one year I left for New York City to pursue my BS degree at NYU. In order to support myself I took position as Head Nurse at New York-Cornell Medical Center. I then moved back to Massachusetts and in 1952 I took a job with the local health department and school department at Amherst. I finally finished my BS in January 1959 and took a working vacation in Sarasota, FL working as an operating room scrub nurse. I had to extend my three-month vacation to seven months because my wages of \$1.00 per hour made it difficult to save money enough to get myself back home.

I then moved back to New York for to work with the New York City Health Department for one year. The following September, I enrolled full time at Columbia University for my Master's Degree. Luckily, because of my participation in the Cadet Nurse Corps at MGH, I received scholarships for my college degrees. With school completed and the need to return to MA, I applied and received the position of Director of Nursing at the Nashoba Department of Health located in Ayer, MA. This agency covered 16 towns representing the local health department in the area around Ayer. Because I took students for their practicum from Boston University (BU) School of Nursing, I was offered and accepted a position as Public Health Nursing Advisor for the Northeast Regional Office of the MA Department of Public Health, later to become the District Health Officer, responsible for providing service to the 67 communities in the region. Again, I took students for their practicum, now from University of Massachusetts – Lowell. At that time I also worked closely with the Merrimack Health Planning Council.

I retired 1988, deciding it was time for some new adventures giving back to my community. I volunteered as coordinator for the Senior Center in Westford as their SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of the Elderly) Program, processed yearly Fuel Applications, and coordinated the TREAD (Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled) Program and the Tax Work Program. While busy with the senior center, I also served for a number of years on the

## Public Health Nursing cont.

town's Finance and Personnel Committees. I devoted two years as chair of the Millpond Restoration Committee committed to restoring the land around the pond to enhance the environment. I was a very early member of the board of the Public Health Museum and it has been a pleasure to see it blossom into what it is today. As age is finally catching up to me I have put the brakes on some of my activities but still plan to keep active as long as possible.

## U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps.

By the early 1940s it was apparent more nurses were needed in the United States. New insurance plans meant more patients entering hospitals and clinics and births were increasing. The defense industry and public health needed nurses. In 1941 only about 60% of the 289,286 registered nurses were working. Some left for marriage and some for better paying jobs in industry. When the U. S. entered World War II, the need for more nurses escalated acutely.

The National Nursing Council for War Service, formed in July, 1940, proposed financial aid for training new nurses and postgraduate nurse specialists and refresher courses for lapsed nurses. This was incorporated into the Labor-Federal Security Agency Appropriation Act of 1942, administered by the Public Health Service. But, it was soon evident that more needed to be done.

Mrs. Frances P. Bolton, Congresswoman of Ohio, had a major interest in nursing and nursing education. She introduced the Nurse Training Act of 1943 (Bolton Act) providing more subsidies for student nurse education and creating the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps. The Act included no ban on married students and with an amendment by Senator Warren Barbour of New Jersey, it also prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, color, or creed. Financial aid included tuition, fees, textbooks, lab fees and living expenses such as room, board and laundry (much more than the 1942 Act). The student also received a monthly stipend for personal expenses and an outdoor uniform. The uniform incorporated as insignia a combination of the corps device of the U.S. Public Health Service and the Maltese Cross.



To participate in the program, a nursing school had to provide an accelerated program of instruction and experience to be completed in 24 to 30 months. Any student 17 to 35 years of age with a high school diploma admitted to such a school after January 1, 1941 was able to join the corps. The student pledged to work in military or essential civilian nursing throughout the war.

Mass media advertising campaigns were initiated to attract young women into the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps. Radio was widely used, as well as print advertising, including African-American magazines and newspapers. Also films, such as *So Proudly We Hailed*, released by Paramount Pictures in 1943, honoring military nurses serving in the Pacific helped the cause. In all, it was considered one of the most successful recruitment campaigns of the war.

The Bolton Act specified the termination of recruitment for the Cadet Nurse Corps on the date hostilities were terminated, which occurred with the Japanese surrender on August 14, 1945. President Truman extended the date by two months. The Act provided that federal aid be allowed to any member of the corps enrolled 90 days prior to the end of the war to complete her basic nursing course. The official termination of the program was June 1948. Between July, 1943 and June, 1948, 124,065 nurses completed training and graduated.

*References:* Landry, B.A., Meghann Lanae. *Fashioning the Future: The U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps, 1943-1948*. A thesis for M. A. at Louisiana State University, May 2012.

Petry, R.N., Lucile. *U. S. Cadet Nurse Corps*. *The American Journal of Nursing*. Vol. 43. No. 8 (Aug., 1943). pp. 704-708.

Linda Perry

# 2016 Calendar of Events

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITIES

### JUNE

Men's Health Month

National Health Safety Month

**1st-7th**, National CPR and AED Awareness Week

**6th**, National Cancer Survivor's Day

**14th**, World Blood Donor Day

**13-19th**, National Men's Health Week.

### JULY

Eye Injury Prevention Month

Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month

July 28th, World Hepatitis Day

### AUGUST

Cataract Awareness Month

Children's Eye Health and Safety Month

National Immunization Awareness Month

1st-6th, World Breastfeeding Week

7th-13th, National Health Center Week

## MUSEUM OF PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITIES

### JUNE

**Saturday June 4** Walking Tour of Tewksbury Hospital Campus

**Thursday June 16** Walking Tour of Tewksbury Hospital Campus

### JULY

**Saturday July 2** Walking Tour of Tewksbury Hospital Campus

**Thursday July 21** Walking Tour of Tewksbury Hospital Campus

### AUGUST

**Aug 1st - 5th:** OUTBREAK 2016

**Saturday Aug 6** Walking Tour of Tewksbury Hospital Campus

**Thursday Aug 18** Walking Tour of Tewksbury Hospital Campus

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## Volunteer Activities

Come join our Volunteer Staff. Some of our activities include:

- Promoting the PHM at regional meetings.
- Conducting tours of the museum and Tewksbury Hospital campus.
- Cataloging museum artifacts and books
- Researching topics for exhibits.
- Writing articles for the PHM Newsletter
- Working with students in the Outbreak program

Applications available on the Museum [website](#)



Mr. Greg Sudia visits the Public Health Museum exhibit at the first joint meeting of the Northeast Branch of the American Society for Microbiology and the Northeast Association for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Disease, April 11-12, 2016 held in Boxborough, MA.

# THE PUBLIC HEALTH MUSEUM IN MASSACHUSETTS

## Our Mission

The Public Health Museum is a non-profit educational and cultural museum. The Museum strives to preserve records and artifacts from our nation's public health history; educate the public about the achievements and contributions of public health; and inspire people to build upon the past and continue to advance the future of public health. Our Museum provides a space to explore public health artifacts, inspire future public health professionals, and foster community involvement.

## Our History

Incorporated in 1990 and open to the public since 1994, the Museum has the distinction of being the first of its kind in the nation. Massachusetts has a rich history of leadership and notable firsts in the birth of our nation. In the field of public health, Massachusetts was the first to record vital statistics; the first to implement a sustained board of health; and the first to implement a communicable disease surveillance system, among many others.

## MUSEUM HOURS

Wednesdays, Thursdays and the first Saturday of each month 10:00am-2:00pm  
OR  
By Appointment

## WALKING TOURS

Seasonal (May through October, weather permitting)  
The third Thursday and first Saturday of each month 10:00am-2:00pm  
OR  
By Appointment

## ADMISSION

\$5.00 per person for museum  
\$10.00 per person for walking tour

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to others who may be interested in the Public Health Museum.

To subscribe to this newsletter, please reply with SUBSCRIBE to Newsletter in the subject line. To unsubscribe, please reply with UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

### ADDRESS

365 East Street  
Tewksbury, MA 01876

### DIRECTIONS

### PHONE NUMBER

978-851-7321 EXT 2606

### EMAIL ADDRESS

[phmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:phmuseum@gmail.com)

### WEBSITE

[publichealthmuseum.org](http://publichealthmuseum.org)

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